

27 February 2012

Dr Ian Holland  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland,

**Response to Question on Notice:  
Inquiry into the *Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records Bill 2011***

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) provided evidence to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the *Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records Bill 2011* on 6 February 2012. During our evidence, we were asked to provide further information on our relationship with the National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) and our views on its operations and engagement processes.

CHF secretariat staff participate in a range of NEHTA reference groups and other consultative forums. CHF also nominates and supports consumer representatives on NEHTA's reference groups. NEHTA funds CHF on an interim, month-to-month basis to support our involvement in reference groups and consultative forums.

CHF has participated in a variety of NEHTA consultation processes, and has observed a substantial increase in consultative activities since the May 2009 Budget announcement relating to the introduction of a Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record. While we have appreciated the inclusion of the consumer voice in these consultations, we have expressed some concerns that more broad-ranging consumer consultation is necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Yours sincerely

**Carol Bennett**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**